

# CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room AD-128, Loyola Campus, at 4:00 P.M.,  
on Monday, 23 March 1981

---

PRESENT: Dr. R. Breen, Chairman; Prof. R. Allison, Mr. D. Arfin, Mr. L. Burogano, Dean B. Counihan, Ms. S. Crompton, Dr. E. Enos, Dean M. Flynn, Ms. A. Kerby, Mr. R. Philip, Mr. J. Revay, Mr. J.A. Sproule, Ms. D. Brundage (Secretary)

ABSENT: Ms. M.E. Diacoumacos, Mr. R. Javitch, Mr. A. Lajoie, Mr. J. Macaluso, Mr. P. Mehta

GUESTS: Mr. D. Boisvert, Ms. N. Cullen, Ms. D. Osborne, Ms. L. Ratelle

## Chairman's Remarks

- 81.3.1.0 Dr. Breen opened the meeting and distributed copies of his letter to Concordia's international students, dated 24 March 1981, (CCSL document 81-3-D2) to members. In this letter, Dr. Breen set forth the official Government position with regard to the imposition of a fee differential for international students. In order to lighten the burden superficially, Dr. Breen told Council, the Government has allocated some \$350,000 to the Quebec universities in order to ease the financial situation of international students who are already in a program of study. In order to receive applications for dispersal of Concordia's \$114,000 share, Dr. Breen has stuck a special committee. Since the University has over 1,000 registered international students, a pro rata distribution of the above amount would result in each student receiving \$75.00 to cover a \$1,000 fee increase.
- 81.3.1.1 The imposition of the differential fee will obviously affect the size of our international enrolment, the Chairman went on, and may well have implications for the student services' budget in future years. The University as a whole is entering into a period of budgetary restraint, the result of a substantial cumulative deficit and an operating deficit which is running at approximately \$3,000,000 annually. The Board of Governors has recently approved a plan whereby this operating deficit will be eliminated. A special committee has been struck to examine the ways and means of making the necessary cuts.
- 81.3.1.2 In the near future, the Chairman said, a special task force will be established to study the whole subject of the international/ethnic associations, and specifically the differences in jurisdiction which exist. The task force will identify any problems that exist and make concrete recommendations to the Vice-Rector, Academic. Ultimately, discussion will take place at Council.

## Approval of the Agenda

- 81.3.2.0 Dean Counihan MOVED and Ms. Kerby SECONDED that the Agenda for the Meeting of 23 March 1981 be APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

## Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 9 February 1981

- 81.3.3.0 Mr. Sproule MOVED and Ms. Kerby SECONDED that the Minutes of the Meeting of 9 February 1981 be APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.



Final Report, Priorities and Finance Committee (CCSL 81-3-D1)

- 81.3.4.0 At the Chairman's request, Ms. Brundage explained briefly the guidelines which the Priorities and Finance had used in developing its budget recommendation for 1981/82 and asked for any questions members might wish to pose. Prof. Allison enquired about the provision for a 14.32% increase in full-time salaries which he felt was high. Dr. Breen replied that it is difficult to know how negotiations in the public sector will result. While staff increases are not calculated in the same way as are faculty raises, for the most part they are determined by the public settlement. If the Parizeau formula were to be followed, staff increases would amount to some 12-13%, a rather ironic figure, since the Government has only allowed the Universities 6%.
- 81.3.4.1 Mr. Arfin pointed out that the Committee had not allowed for what could be a drastic decrease in enrolment in 1981/82; however, there is some speculation that student services might receive an increase in the grant per student from the Government in that year, which would offset an enrolment decline.
- 81.3.4.2 Dr. Breen noted that the Committee had provided for a margin of budgetary manoeuvre and stated that vis-a-vis other universities, Concordia's student services' are in a healthy financial position. Dean Counihan then MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED that the Council APPROVE the Recommendation of the Priorities and Finance Committee.
- 81.3.4.3 Mr. Revay enquired about the surplus of some \$225,000 which now rests in the student services' cumulative operating. Given the austerity which will prevail throughout the rest of the University, is there any likelihood that student services will be asked to pick up some of the expenses now absorbed by other areas. Is it possible, for instance, that Guidance could be asked to assume a larger financial involvement in academic advising? Dr. Breen replied that since the Committee set up by the Board of Governors to study financial cuts had not made its recommendations yet, Mr. Revay's question could not be answered definitively. However, it would be up to Council to decide whether or not any suggestions of this type were reasonable. Dean Flynn then CALLED the question of the MOTION which carried, all in favour with one absention.
- 81.3.4.4 Dr. Breen then stated that the budget as approved for recommendation to the Board of Governors would be adhered to in 1981/82, even if extra funding is forthcoming. In that case, the surplus would be increased to guard against the possibility that in future years, the financial situation might necessitate a reduction in staff.

Athletic Awards (CCSL 81-2-D1)

- 81.3.5.0 Dr. Enos reported on a recent meeting of the Athletic Directors of Quebec Universities. As a group, he said, they were not opposed to the concept of awards for athletic competency. The University of Montreal, the University of Quebec at Rimouski and the University of Quebec at Montreal do not participate in inter-university athletics and, therefore, the question is not relevant to their situation. McGill, Laval and the University of Quebec at Three Rivers are willing to try to develop athletic scholarship programs but, at the present time,



do not have the funds to do so. Bishop's already has a scholarship program which recognizes extra-curricular activities. The possibility of some of the universities offering athletic scholarships and others not could create a "tiering" situation which no one would like to see. If tiering were to occur, Laval and the University of Quebec at Three Rivers might reverse their position and actively oppose the concept.

- 81.3.5.1 Dean Counihan noted that it is important to maintain the notion of "awards" as opposed to that of "scholarships" which would imply academic superiority. He also felt that the concept could be expanded to allow for financial assistance to students in other areas - say, Fine Arts or student government - but that it should not be interpreted as detracting from the necessity for academic competence. Dr. Breen pointed out that one could require a certain academic performance as well as ability in another field.
- 81.3.5.2 In answer to a query regarding the source of the funds to support these awards, Dr. Breen stated that Concordia's scholarship money comes from the Development Department and that no one in the academic stream would want this diverted to another purpose. Dr. Enos pointed out that during a Loyola development campaign, several companies indicated a willingness to contribute for a specific purpose which engaged their interest. There are, therefore, some people who have been involved with athletics who might be persuaded to support an athletics awards fund. Dr. Enos also noted that third party scholarships are legal according to the C.I.A.U.
- 81.3.5.3 Mr. Revay observed that there are problems with the "mixed awards" theory: what is the mix? how much involvement is required? does being good in three categories equal being outstanding in one? Moreover, hidden costs are involved, for example: advertising and the time of people to do the assessing. It is also possible that donors to specific funds may want to place conditions on their contributions which would make the money less attractive.
- 81.3.5.4 Dr. Enos pointed out that the objective of an athletics awards program would be primarily to keep Canadian students in Canada and not necessarily to attract American students. The C.I.A.U. has agreed to take the responsibility for policing the program. In response to Dean Flynn's question as to what would happen in the case of an athlete who was injured in the middle of a season, Dr. Enos would like a committee of the University to deal with the situation so that the coaches need not be involved. The main purpose of an athletic award would be to reduce tuition, but if money were left over it could be applied to accommodation or other necessities.
- 81.3.5.5 In response to Prof. Allison's inquiry as to the existence of any other body within the University that deals with awards, Dr. Breen stated that this is the function of the Scholarship Committee of Senate which is chaired by Loyola's Financial Aid Officer. This Committee is directly tied to the academic side of the University; however, it would also administer any extra-curricular award program which might be instituted.
- 81.3.5.6 Dr. Breen then asked for Council's reaction to the specific document in front of them? The initiative has been taken by Athletics, but it is possible that in addition to endorsing the document, Council could say that it would



like to see the concept broadened to include other student activities within the University. Deans Counihan and Flynn and Mr. Sproule specifically supported this approach; there was no objection from other members of Council.

Interim Report on the Concordia Council on Student Life Awards (CCSL 81-2-D2)

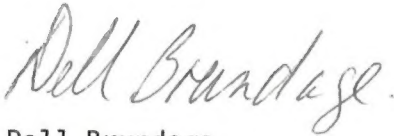
- 81.3.6.0 Dean Counihan reported that the sub-committee had met and that most of the arrangements have been made. The reception will take place on 6 April, 1981 in the Sir George Williams Faculty Club. The advertising has appeared and some fourteen nominations have thus far been received. The certificates have been signed by the Rector, will be by the Vice-Rector and a student will do the final lettering. Because many parents enjoy this type of event, Dean Flynn said, they should be asked to attend. Dean Counihan stated that the invitations would be extended to the winners and their guests.

Information Session - Guidance Services' Reading and Study Skills

- 81.3.7.0 Dr. Breen introduced Mrs. D. Osborne to the Council and pointed out the important role her services play within the University. Mrs. Osborne started out by explaining that historically Sir George Williams has been in the vanguard of concern with reading skills and that, traditionally, programs in this area have been carried out through Guidance Services. In 1966 Mrs. Osborne was hired on a part-time basis and created a reading workshop - a vehicle which has operated without a break ever since. At the time of the merger the problem was how to provide identical services on the two campuses. While space and equipment on the Loyola Campus were initially lacking, attractive and well equipped reading centres have since been developed.
- 81.3.7.1 Mrs. Osborne emphasized the importance of adapting services to students' needs. In recent years an illiteracy problem has appeared which has meant that the speed-reading courses have been dropped in favour of a more elementary approach. Many students have serious reading deficiencies and cannot write a simple paraphrase or precis material. Mrs. Osborne's object is to move these students to a level of basic literacy, that is, to develop in them certain listening and communicating skills. Most of the students understand their situation and are grieved to be so ill-equipped.
- 81.3.7.2 In her work, Mrs. Osborne went on, she deals with students of all levels and departments, as well as with staff and faculty members. Students of other cultures and with other languages have different needs and, perhaps, theirs are the most basic. Many of the adult students who are returning to formal education have problems of self-confidence and are easily intimidated, even though, frequently their skills are the equal of their sons and daughters expertise. In this connection, Mrs. Osborne has done some work with Ms. Opala and would like to set up a workshop specifically for older people to help them adjust.
- 81.3.7.3 In closing, Mrs. Osborne said that there is much that needs to be done and much that she would like to institute - study skills workshops, for instance - but that resources are scarce. Even under present circumstances, with the two campus operation, she desperately needs part-time help.

In closing, Mrs. Osborne noted the fine support and encouragement she had always received from the Director of Guidance Services, Mr. J.A. Sproule. Dean Flynn then MOVED and Dean Counihan SECONDED a vote of thanks to Mrs. Osborne for her excellent presentation.

The Record of this meeting is unavoidably incomplete. There followed a report on Orientation, offered by Ms. S. Crompton, Reports from Directors and Adjournment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dell Brundage".

Dell Brundage  
Secretary